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BLACKWELL
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR

1945

By

A. H. WEAR, M.D., B.S., D.P.H., B.Hy.,
Medical Officer of Health.

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Preface.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
BLACKWELL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of your district for the year 1945.

In spite of six years of war, the health of the district has been satisfactory apart from an outbreak of Measles which commenced in January and continued until the end of June.

The problem requiring most urgent attention is undoubtedly that of housing. It was thought that at the end of the European and the Japanese War, rapid progress would be made in building houses to relieve the terrible need which exists. At the end of 1945, a start had been made in erecting Pre-fabricated houses, of which 50 are to be built at Shirebrook and 50 at Pleasley, but the construction of these houses is disappointingly slow. Many families are living under intolerable conditions, and as the soldiers get discharged conditions become worse.

I wish to take this opportunity of thanking the Members and Officials for their continued interest and support.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

A. H. WEAR,

Medical Officer of Health.

"Dale Close,"

100, Chesterfield Road South,
Mansfield.

Statistics of the Area.

Area (acres)	21,922
Population (Census 1931)	44,891
Population mid-year (Registrar-General) 1945	41,620
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1945) according to Rate Books	11,080
Rateable Value, 1945	£167,323
Sum represented by a Penny Rate, 1945	£635

Social Conditions.

The Social conditions are mainly industrial, the chief occupations of the inhabitants being coal mining and agriculture.

In December, the Elm Tree Hostel was closed down to evacuees after $4\frac{1}{2}$ years' service. During its existence, 465 evacuees have been resident there at various times, and much invaluable work has been done under the guidance of Miss Brown and Miss Kitchener.

The complaints treated were chiefly skin diseases, especially scabies and verminous heads, but all kinds of cases were admitted, including difficult children, and minor infectious diseases like Measles and Chicken-pox.

In November, 1941, arrangements were made with the Ministry of Health to treat cases of scabies from the Blackwell Rural District as out-patients, and the staff readily agreed to do this extra work. The Hostel still continues to act as a Disinfestation Centre for scabies and verminous heads. During the last four years, 1,784 cases of scabies have been treated and cured.

Chief cause of Invalidity in the District.

Scabies continues to be one of the most common causes of invalidity in the area. 552 persons received treatment.

53 persons received treatment for verminous heads. In the ordinary way, when school children are discovered in school with nits in their heads, parents are advised by the Health Visitor as to treatment, and this is generally sufficient. It is only where the heads are very bad that they are taken for treatment at the Hostel.

The following table shows how the cases of scabies are diminishing:—

Year	Scabies treated	Verminous heads treated
1940	71	Nil
1941	267	Nil
1942	894	Nil
1943	1,381	39
1944	929	59
1945	552	53

The 552 cases of scabies last year were in the following parishes. Cases from the Southern Area are treated at Elm Tree Hostel, and for the Northern Area at the Bolsover Baths.

Parish	Persons
Tibshelf	193
South Normanton	90
Pinxton	75
Shirebrook	73
Blackwell	65
Pleasley	37
Scarcliffe	17
Ault Hucknall	2
Glapwell	—

Vital Statistics.

BIRTHS:

Live Births—

		Total	Males	Females	
Legitimate	.....	851	445	406	{ Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 21.6.
Illegitimate	.....	52	26	26	
Still Births	.....	18	12	6	{ Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 19.5.

The birth-rate continues much higher than before the war. The illegitimate births are 20 more than in 1944, and 10 more than in 1939.

This rise in illegitimacy is disquieting; the chief factor causing it is the loosening of home ties brought about by war conditions.

		Total	Males	Females	
DEATHS	.....	427	250	177	{ Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 10.25.

Deaths from puerperal causes—

		Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births
Puerperal Sepsis	—	—
Other puerperal causes	—	—
		—	—
Total	—	—

It is satisfactory to note that no deaths occurred from child-birth.

THE INFANTILE DEATH-RATE.

This is a little higher than in 1944. The chief causes were premature birth, and babies born with deformities. These together caused 30 infant deaths.

DEATH-RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE:—

All infants, per 1,000 live births	.....	57
Legitimate infants, per 1,000 live births		58
Illegitimate infants, per 1,000 live births		38

DEATHS FROM:—

Violent causes	.....	15
Road accidents	.....	2
Measles (all ages)	.....	1
Whooping Cough (all ages)	.....	4
Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	.....	2
Cancer (all ages)	.....	56
Heart Disease	.....	100
Bronchitis	.....	27
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	.....	2
Diphtheria	.....	1
Premature Birth	.....	11
Congenital Malformation	.....	19

Nutrition.

The nutrition among school children remains satisfactory, due largely to the provision of school milk and mid-day meals. In my experience, there were less cases of "sub-normal" nutrition, but, on the other hand, there were fewer of "excellent" nutrition. Owing to the scarcity of fruit, it is doubtful if many children over 5 years got sufficient Vitamin C. Another adverse factor to a child's health during the war years was the double summer time. The lack of sleep due to this was undoubtedly injurious.

The Milk Officer has made the following remarks relating to the Welfare Food Scheme for 1945.

In addition to the Food Office, the number of Distribution Centres in the Area is sixteen, in the following places: Doe Lea, Blackwell, New Houghton, Westhouses, Pinxton, Langwith, Hillstown, Shirebrook, South Normanton, Tibshelf, Langwith Junction, Newton, B. Winning, Glapwell, Palterton, Scarcliffe.

National Dried Milk.

The popularity of the Dried Milk has been maintained, and the average number of tins issued has considerably increased.

For delicate Infants the Half Cream is available at all Distribution Centres.

Vitamins.

Every endeavour has been made to bring to the notice of parents and guardians the value to young children of the vitamins made available by the Ministry of Food. There are many who do not take advantage of the facilities, though the figures for this Area do not compare unfavourably with the Division, as shown in the following table:—

ISSUE OF VITAMIN PRODUCTS, 1945:

	Percentage of Potential		
	Orange Juice	Cod Liver Oil	A. & D. Tablets
Blackwell R.D.	53.9	19.8	48.9
North Midland Division	46.4	18.75	36.5
United Kingdom	40	22	35

During the months of May and June, the supply of Orange Juice in the country was sufficient to extend the provision to children between the ages of five and ten years, and in this Area the extra number of bottles distributed amounted to 4,077.

The new Welfare Food, Orange Juice Jelly, which is provided for school children, is regularly supplied to all School Canteens and Institutions in the Area.

Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1945.

	Birth-rate per 1,000 Total Population		ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION							RATE PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS		
	Live Births	Still Births	All causes	Enteric Fever	Small-pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping-cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Diarrhoea and Enteritis, under 2 years	Total Deaths under 1 year
England and Wales	16.1	0.46	11.4	0.00	—	0.02	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.08	5.6	46
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London ..	19.1	0.58	13.5	0.00	—	0.02	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.07	7.8	54
148 Smaller Towns (1931 adjusted) Populations 25,000—50,000 ..	19.2	0.53	12.3	0.00	—	0.02	0.00	0.01	0.02	0.07	4.5	43
London	15.7	0.40	13.8	0.00	—	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.07	7.6	53
BLACKWELL R.D.	21.6	0.43	10.2	0.00	—	0.02	0.00	0.09	0.02	0.02	2.2	57

General Provisions of Health Services in the Area.

Laboratory Facilities.

No changes or developments have been made in connection with laboratory facilities. The number of types of specimens dealt with by the County Laboratories were as follows:—

Enterica—	Positive	Negative	Total
Typhoid, Para-Typhoid A & B	—	—	—
Gaertner, Dysentry, etc.	—	—	—
Diphtheria	34	212	246
Phthisis	3	68	71
Water	—	9	9

Milk—

Methylene Blue Test, Routine Samples	22	198	220
Bacterial Content	6	50	56
Bacillus Coli.	50	194	244
T.B. Inoculation sent by Ministry of Agriculture	—	2	2
T.B. Inoculation, Routine Samples	2	201	203

Ice Cream—

Bacterial Count	17	12	29
Bacillus Coli.	11	18	29
Miscellaneous	—	29	29
Totals	145	993	1138

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

No action has been taken by the County Council in pursuance of Section 57 of the Local Government Act, 1929, or Section 307 or 320 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

WATER.

Upwards of $1\frac{1}{4}$ million gallons of water is supplied daily to the district from the Meden Valley Waterworks, and there is an ample supply of water. The water was analysed at regular intervals and found most satisfactory in quality. Bacteriological samples are taken monthly, and chemical ones once a quarter.

The supply is a piped supply, and bacteriological examination was made of the raw water on April 27th. It is pumped from boreholes in the bunter sandstone at Budby, in Nottinghamshire. There were originally two boreholes, but during 1945 a third one was constructed. The water from the first two boreholes is gradually getting harder, and has increased by 6.7 degrees between 29th February, 1935, and 24th April, 1945. It is now 14.7 degrees.

A chlorinating plant is installed at the Pumping Station at Budby, and .125 parts per million of chlorine is added. The analyst's report on a recent sample concluded with the following remarks, "These results show the water to be of a high degree of organic purity and satisfactory bacteriologically. In my opinion the supply is an ideal one for drinking purposes."

There are 181 houses out of a total of 11,017 in this district which are served by standpipes (of these, 170 are in the Southern area), so that 96% of the houses in the area have an internal supply. Water main extensions have been laid on to a housing site for fifty Pre-fabricated houses at Langwith Junction and for a similar number at Pleasley.

Part of the village of Shirebrook, known as the Model Village, is supplied by the Colliery Company, who obtain

their water from a well in the magnesium limestone. This water shows 38% of hardness; it is polluted and is being chlorinated, and as much as .8 parts per million of free chlorine is added.

A statutory notice was served on the Colliery during the year, and I understand that they have agreed to take the Council's water. Work has now commenced on the Council's mains and those belonging to Shirebrook Colliery Company, Ltd., so that, in future, the Shirebrook Model Village will be supplied from the Council's mains.

Number of houses in Blackwell Rural District			
provided with a piped water supply	.....	.....	10,839
Number of houses having baths installed	.....	.....	3,534
Number of houses having water closets	.....	.....	7,968
Number of houses having earth or bucket latrines			3,151
Number of houses having a standpipe supply only			181
Number of houses dependent on rain water only or some supplementary source such as a spring or well	.....	.....	22

CLOSET CONVERSIONS.

The number of pails and privy middens in the district are as follows:—

Parish		Pail Closets	Privy Middens
South Normanton	.....	409	3
Pinxton	.....	755	—
Blackwell	.....	495	13
Tibshelf	.....	202	7
Shirebrook	.....	1,040	13
Scarcliffe	.....	41	13
Pleasley	.....	65	2
Glapwell	.....	3	—
Ault Hucknall	.....	—	90
Totals	.....	3,010	141

Housing.

No houses were completed during the year, although a few Pre-fabricated temporary houses were being very slowly erected at Pleasley and Langwith Junction. It is hoped eventually to erect 50 in each of these areas. Although the war in Europe finished in May, at the end of the year work had not commenced on any permanent houses.

The Council intended to build 354 permanent houses and 100 temporary bungalows in the first two years after the European war ended, but the progress of the housing programme is disappointingly slow, and the need of houses to abate overcrowding is one of the most urgent public health problems in Blackwell Rural District. There are still a considerable number of houses requiring demolition in the area, in addition to the 331 which were dealt with under the Slum Clearance Act of 1930, but until accommodation is more plentiful, it would be foolish to pull down existing houses unless they are in a very bad condition.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Shirebrook Sewage Works.

Complaints were received during the year about a nuisance caused in an adjoining area due to storm overflow beds of the Shirebrook Sewage Works.

These works give a satisfactory effluent, but there is no doubt that they are considerably overworked, and will be more so when the conversion of over 1,000 pail closets in the parish takes place. In the interests of the health of the district these conversions are urgently necessary. I understand plans and other details have been prepared for alterations and additions to the works, including the provision of additional tanks, percolating filters, and mud drying beds. I understand the scheme is ready to be deposited with the Ministry.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk, Meat and other Foods.

Full details of these will be found in the Sanitary Inspectors' reports.

URGENT SANITARY REQUIREMENTS.

1. Abatement of overcrowding.
 2. Conversion of the pail closets at Pinxton.
 3. Re-conditioning and augmenting Shirebrook Sewage Works to allow a general conversion to be carried out in this parish.
 4. Properties with one tap to four or five houses to have a proper water supply.
 5. Demolition of certain slum properties, particularly in the parishes of Pinxton, Langwith and Blackwell.
-

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1945.

Notifiable Disease	Number of Cases notified											Total Cases notified in each Parish of the District								Total Cases removed to Hospital	Total Deaths				
	At Ages—years											Shirebrook	Normanton	Pinxton	Tibshelf	Blackwell	Pleasley	Scarescliffe	A. Hucknall			Glapwell			
	Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65												65 & upward		
Small-pox ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cholera ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Plague ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ..	38	1	2	1	1	12	8	6	7	1	3	4	—	—	—	—	—	4	2	3	—	—	38	1	—
Erysipelas ..	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	151	—	—
Scarlet Fever ..	160	2	6	13	13	59	36	14	14	14	2	—	—	—	—	—	26	8	6	1	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	28	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	3	1	—	—	—	—	—
Other forms of Tuberculosis ..	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	2	5	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ..	21	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	5	1	2	7	1	—	—	—	3	2	2	2	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ..	7	2	1	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ..	864	53	112	125	116	126	304	18	7	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	70	2	180	47	38	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ..	34	4	6	5	7	34	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	4	7	6	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	1181	61	121	138	138	175	386	64	27	31	7	8	11	376	61	161	101	105	15	239	70	55	198	40	—

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

Diphtheria.

38 cases of this disease occurred, and all were removed to hospital. Of these, 25 were under 15 years of age and had been immunised.

Only one death occurred, and this was in a child of 18 months who had not been immunised. The doctor, who was summoned after death had taken place, diagnosed measles and diphtheria, the latter disease being only suspected.

The campaign to get the children immunised continued during the year, and the results were most encouraging. In the period under review, 408 school children and 576 toddlers were immunised, making a total of 86% of school children and 73% of toddlers.

Immunisation stirs up the natural defences of the body against diphtheria. All that is necessary is two injections under the skin at an interval of one month of a few drops of fluid. In about six weeks after the last injection, the child is protected against diphtheria, and in the great majority of cases this protection lasts a long time. Although an immunised child may contact diphtheria, the attack is invariably mild, and there is no danger of it proving fatal.

Scarlet Fever.

160 cases were notified as compared with 305 in 1944. The source of infection was by direct contact, either in school, cinema or swimming bath. There were 86 cases in the Northern Area and 74 in the Southern Area. The disease was mild in character.

Cerebro-spinal Meningitis.

Seven cases were notified, and one death occurred. Two cases came from Kirkstead Rows, Pinxton. This property is very unsatisfactory, and should be condemned when the

Housing situation becomes easier. Another case came from an overcrowded house at New Houghton.

Acute Poliomyelitis.

One sporadic case occurred at Tibshelf. The disease was very mild.

Whooping Cough and Measles.

34 cases of Whooping Cough and 864 cases of Measles were notified. Five deaths occurred, four in Whooping Cough and one in Measles.

Tuberculosis.

The following table gives particulars of new cases of tuberculosis and of all deaths from the diseases during the year:—

Age Periods in years	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—
1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1
5	1	—	3	2	—	—	—	—
10	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—
15	2	3	—	1	—	4	—	—
20	3	3	—	2	1	1	—	—
25	2	1	1	1	1	2	—	—
35	3	1	—	—	1	—	1	—
45	1	2	1	—	2	1	1	1
55	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	16	12	9	7	6	8	4	2

The phthisis death-rate is 0.33 per 1,000 of the population.

It has been estimated that tubercle bacilli in milk causes 80% of non-pulmonary tuberculosis, and rather less than 2% of pulmonary tuberculosis, hence the importance that milk should be pasteurised.

Reports of Sanitary Inspectors.

NORTHERN AREA.

Comprising the Parishes of Shirebrook, Scarcliffe, Pleasley, Ault Hucknall and Glapwell. 14,626 acres.

Sanitary Inspector: I. N. CREEAR, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.

- (i.) Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Joint Board.
- (ii.) Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute (Meat and other Foods).
- (iii.) Member of Sanitary Inspectors' Association.

Offices: Cliffe House, Shirebrook.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

General Sanitation:

Water Supplies	.....	30
Drainage	.....	82
Stables and Piggeries	.....	16
Sanitary Conveniences, Ashplaces and Ashbins	.....	301
Re-inspections of Sanitary Conveniences, Ashplaces and Ashbins	.....	162
Fried Fish Shops	.....	25
Public Conveniences	.....	8
Factories and Bakehouses	.....	19
Refuse Collection	.....	136
Refuse Disposal	.....	130
Rats and Mice	.....	152
Cinemas	.....	5
Petroleum Acts	.....	36
Inquiries re cases of Infectious Disease	.....	172
Inquiries re cases of Scabies	.....	80
Interviews and Appointments	.....	524
General Inspections	.....	151
Miscellaneous Visits	.....	387

Housing:

Number of houses inspected under Public Health Acts	196
Re-visits to houses inspected under Public Health Acts	218
Number of houses inspected re overcrowding	23

Meat and Food Inspection:

Visits to Slaughterhouses	26
Shops and Stalls (re meat)	480
Street Vendors' and Hawkers' Carts	11
Other Food Premises	106
Cowsheds inspected	251
Dairies and Milkshops inspected	285

Miscellaneous:

Government Evacuation Scheme	116
Salvage	203

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS.

A great deal of time has been devoted to the production and distribution of milk in the district, and a number of improvements to cowsheds and dairies have been carried out, including new standings, floors, light and ventilation. There are still further improvements required, but owing to the shortage of suitable labour it has not been possible to undertake all the requirements. During the year, 536 inspections have been made of cowsheds and dairies, and the sampling of milk has continued.

The following improvements have been effected during the year:—

- 2 farm yards surfaced and drained.
- 3 new dairies erected.
- 1 new standings and floors of cowshed.
- 1 lighting improved.

Details of registered premises:

Wholesale Producers	.....	32
Producers and Retailers	.....	36
Retail Purveyors	.....	14

Milk Samples.

The following samples were submitted for examination:

New Milk—

Methylene Blue test	.....	115	(100 satisfactory, 15 unsatisfactory)
Coliform test	.....	115	(78 satisfactory, 37 unsatisfactory)
Biological examination	.....	104	(1 positive tuberculosis)

Of the samples taken and examined for tuberculosis, 1 cow was found to be affected and was slaughtered.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS)

REGULATIONS, 1936-44.

During the year, six applications were received to register premises for the purpose of the manufacture or storage of ice cream.

In two instances the premises were altered to conform with the Act, and regular inspections were made. A satisfactory standard of cleanliness was maintained.

Pasteurised Milk—

Bacteriological examination	.....	14	(11 satisfactory, 3 unsatisfactory)
Phosphatase test	.....	17	samples satisfactory

SCAVENGING.

This work has been carried out, on the whole, very satisfactorily, but many difficulties have arisen owing to the inability of obtaining suitable labour, and the delay in securing repairs to lorry defects. The class of labour which

I have been able to obtain are generally of a class only suitable for disablement pensions. In spite of this, the collecting service has been maintained, and the collection of night-soil carried out with the same regularity of pre-war.

The pails continue to be emptied twice weekly in the most densely populated parts, and cesspools are emptied quarterly.

The acute shortage of labour and materials has been a problem during the year. It has been difficult to obtain labour to carry out even urgent items, such as defective roofs, choked drains, etc. Lavatory pipes which burst during the frost have had to wait owing to the fact that there has not been a plumber in the area for about the last five years. I have interviewed owners and master plumbers out of the area to undertake this work, and in many cases these have been completed. The situation is still far from satisfactory.

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919.

The Council continue to administer delegated powers in respect of this Act.

A part-time Rat Catcher is employed, under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector, and during the year, 562 rats were destroyed, 308 baits laid, and 257 burrows gassed.

Treatment of Sewers.

This work was completed in April. 204 manholes were inspected and baits laid. The work was closely watched, and as most of the baits were laid in the agricultural districts, few were taken. This no doubt is due to the fact that the rats could obtain food without having to go into the sewers.

Eradication of Vermin.

During the year, 17 notices were served on occupiers to cleanse their premises. Where vermin was present, stoving and steam disinfection of bedding was carried out. In other

cases, tenants were instructed to strip walls and thoroughly cleanse fixtures and floors. Frequent visits were made until the premises were in a satisfactory condition.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

The Chesterfield Municipal Abattoir continues to be used as the Regional Slaughterhouse for the area. Careful attention has been given during the year to conditions where food is stored and prepared for sale, a total of 701 inspections having been made for this purpose.

A considerable number of cottagers keep their own pigs, and the number killed during the year for private consumption amounted to 552.

Unsound food condemned amounted to 2,229 lbs., made up as follows: beef and beef offal, 452 lbs.; pork and pork offal, 656 lbs.; fish, 517 lbs.; tinned goods and other foods, 604 lbs.

The making up places have been kept in a clean and satisfactory condition.

SALVAGE.

The total weight of salvage collected during the year was 154 tons; included in this was 68 tons of paper. The amount of salvage recovered has steadily declined: this can be accounted for by the scarcity of materials, the repeated salvage drives, and the return of many cardboard boxes and cartons for re-use by the manufacturers.

Many cottagers are keeping their own pig, and many more have a few poultry which are fed on their neighbours' scraps, and this accounts in a large degree for the drop in the contents of kitchen waste bins.

The schools have continued their assistance with waste paper collection, although a lot of the enthusiasm shown

during the war seems to have departed. During the year, 7 tons 5 cwts. was recovered owing to the efforts of the school children.

The following table gives details of the work carried out during the year:—

Month	Dustbins emptied	Ashpits emptied	Pail closets emptied	Cesspools emptied	Total No. of loads removed
January	15,849	2	7,294	5	327
February	14,534	10	5,712	5	323
March	17,020	16	7,020	28	403
April	15,911	19	6,517	17	334
May	14,923	5	7,616	2	313
June	15,523	7	7,143	13	340
July	16,508	18	6,610	19	363
August	17,120	15	7,050	26	410
September	15,443	14	6,468	17	332
October	16,754	—	7,349	15	351
November	15,500	9	6,521	15	350
December	14,755	—	6,204	22	360
Totals	189,890	115	81,504	184	4,206

The number of complaints received during the year was 138. A number of them were of a trivial nature and could not be dealt with under the Public Health Acts. In every case where a complaint was found to be bona-fide, action was duly taken.

Disinfection.

Number of infected rooms disinfected	1,410
Bundles of bedding removed for disinfection	698
Samples of water submitted for examination	14

RURAL HOUSING SURVEY.

The survey was started in June, and it was only possible from then to the end of the year to employ one man on the work. By then, 766 houses had been inspected and

recorded. The chief defects found being defective roofs and guttering, damp walls chiefly rising owing to perished or defective damp courses, and general defects which could be expected owing to no maintenance repairs being executed since before the war.

Number of houses legally overcrowded	.....	.....	6
Number of houses with two families (one overcrowded)	.....	.....	96
Number of houses with three families (one overcrowded)	.....	.....	6
Number of houses with four families (overcrowded)	.....	.....	1
Number of houses containing lodgers (none overcrowded)	.....	.....	95

GENERAL.

Shortage of staff and suitable labour, together with the difficulty of obtaining materials and spare parts for the vehicles, has made it difficult to keep the department up to date in every respect, but every effort has been made to supervise food supplies, sanitary defects, and efficient cleaning service.

I. N. CREEAR, .

Sanitary Inspector, Northern Area.

SOUTHERN AREA.

Comprising the parishes of Blackwell, Pinxton,
South Normanton and Tibshelf - 7,296 acres.

Population (National Register, 1939), 18,683.

Sanitary Inspector: ROBERT CLARKSON.

- (i.) Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute and
Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Joint
Board.
- (ii.) Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute
(Meat and other Foods).
- (iii.) Member of Sanitary Inspectors' Association.

Offices: Victoria Street, South Normanton, Derbys.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

General Sanitation:

Water Supplies	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Drainage	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	174
Drains tested	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	25
Stables and Piggeries	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	36
Accumulations	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Colliery Spoilbanks	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Sanitary Conveniences, Ashplaces and Ashbins	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	452
Re-Inspections of Sanitary Conveniences, Ashplaces and Ashbins	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	453
Fried Fish Shops	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Tents, Vans and Sheds	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	45
Public Conveniences	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Factories and Bake-houses	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	34
Refuse Collection	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	96
Refuse Disposal	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	59
Rats and Mice	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	914
Schools	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	28
Cinemas	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Shops Acts	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Petroleum Acts	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	28
Rivers Pollution, Prevention	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4

Inquiries re Cases of Infectious Disease	.....	135
Inquiries re Cases of Scabies	.....	65
Interviews and Appointments	.....	284
General Inspections	.....	2
Miscellaneous Visits	.....	646

Housing:

Number of houses inspected under Public Health Acts	115
Re-visits to houses	333
Number of houses inspected under Housing Acts	—
Re-visits to houses	25
Number of houses inspected re overcrowding	10
Re-visits paid to houses	8
Number of verminous houses inspected	80
Re-visits to above houses	214
Rural Housing Survey: Number of houses examined	595

Meat and Food Inspection:

Visits to Slaughterhouses	75
Occasional Slaughterings (Farms, etc.)	75
Shops and Stalls (re meat)	327
Street Vendors and Hawkers' Carts	12
Other Food Premises	210
Cowsheds inspected	172
Dairies and Milkshops inspected	125

Miscellaneous:

A.R.P.—Visits, Interviews, etc.	153
Government Evacuation Scheme	11
Salvage	224

SUMMARY OF NOTICES SERVED AND COMPLIED WITH.

	Served during 1945	Complied with during 1945	Out- standing on 31/12/45
Informal Public Health Act Notices	511	550	304
Statutory Public Health Act Notices	20	20	17
Informal Housing Act Notices	—	—	—
Statutory Housing Act Notices	—	3	48
Total	531	573	369

SUMMARY OF SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS.

Dwelling Houses:

Cleansed	.....	19
Vermin Disinfestation	.....	64
Air Space improved	.....	—
Lighting improved	.....	—
Ventilation improved	.....	1
Windows repaired	.....	29
Walls rendered free from dampness	.....	21
Plasterwork repaired	.....	27
Floors re-laid or repaired	.....	18
Woodwork renewed or repaired	.....	6
Fireplaces and grates repaired	.....	19
Kitchen boilers repaired	.....	8
Cooking facilities improved	.....	3
Food stores improved	.....	6
Coal stores improved	.....	5
Washing accommodation provided or improved	.....	10
Internal water supply provided	.....	1
Roofs repaired	.....	55
Walls pointed and brickwork repaired	.....	16
Chimney stacks repaired	.....	5
Damp proof course provided	.....	—
Eaves gutters and downspouts repaired	.....	28
Yards and passages paved or repaired	.....	10
Yards cleansed	.....	2
Living vans removed	.....	1
Miscellaneous defects remedied	.....	9
Baths provided	.....	—

Drainage:

Drainage provided, re-laid or repaired	.....	18
Drains cleansed	.....	46
Gullies provided or repaired	.....	15
Inspection Chambers provided or repaired	.....	13

Ventilators repaired	.....	4
Premises drained by provision of cesspool	.....	—
Cesspools repaired	.....	—
Cesspools abolished	.....	1
Cesspools cleansed	.....	—
Drains connected to sewer	.....	2
Length of drainage examined	..... yards	158

Sinks:

New sinks provided	.....	1
New sink waste pipes provided	.....	2
Sink waste pipes repaired	.....	4

Closet Accommodation:

Buildings repaired	.....	24
Closets cleansed	.....	8
Water closet cisterns provided or repaired	.....	5
Water closet pedestals renewed	.....	5
Water closet service pipes repaired	.....	20
Closet pails renewed	.....	131

Ashplaces, Ashbins, etc.

Defective ashbins renewed	.....	220
Ashplaces and middens abolished	.....	5
Ashbins provided in lieu of ashplaces and middens	.....	5

Miscellaneous:

Dangerous, defective and dilapidated buildings demolished	.....	—
Accumulation removed	.....	20
Manure pits provided or repaired	.....	—
Urinals repaired and cleansed	.....	3
Nuisances abated from keeping of animals	.....	8
Other nuisances abated	.....	3

In two cases the work required by statutory notices was carried out by the Council and the costs recovered from the occupiers, and in two instances accumulations were removed by the Council and no charge made:

Public Health Act, 1936 (Section 83):

Two houses disinfested (bugs).

Public Health Act, 1936 (Section 93):

Two accumulations removed.

No legal proceedings were taken.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

The shortage of materials and restrictions on building work has prevented the Council proceeding with schemes for the conversion of unsuitable sanitary conveniences. There are still some 1,800 pail closets in use. In the majority of cases there is now an adequate water supply and drainage system available, so that conversions will be able to proceed as soon as the present situation eases.

During the year, the following work has been carried out:—

Pail closets converted to water closets	.....	2
Additional water closets provided	.....	1
Privies converted to pail closets	.....	4

HOUSING.

The provision of additional housing accommodation continues to be the most urgent post-war problem. Whilst no accurate figures are yet available, the statistics for that part of the area dealt with by the Rural Housing Survey show that 10% of the houses are occupied by more than one family. If this is the same for the remaining part of the area not yet surveyed, and having regard to the number of houses likely to be demolished, it is estimated that some 700 new houses will be required in the near future.

No appreciable improvement has taken place in the amount of labour available for the repair of house property, and considerable difficulty is experienced in many cases in

securing the repair of the most urgent defects. Many of the houses in the district are steadily deteriorating for want of attention, and a large number are in need of extensive repairs.

During the year under review, repairs (Section 9) have been completed at 3 houses, and 3 houses (Section 11) have been demolished.

Houses subject to Demolition Orders (Section 11 and Clearance Areas):

	Pinxton	South Normanton	Blackwell	Tibshelf	Total
Still occupied	3	26	3	2	34
Vacant and awaiting demolished (derelict)	5	7	1	6	19
Total	8	33	4	8	53

Three houses, subject to Demolition Orders, continue to be used under the provisions of the Defence (General) Regulations, as follows:—

Regulation 68a: One house.

Regulation 51 (requisitioned by Council): Two houses.

The Rural Housing Survey was commenced in July, 1945, and at the end of the year, 595 houses had been recorded in the Parish of Pinxton. Of these, 36 have been classed as unfit, and 439 in need of repair. Four of the houses are legally overcrowded, 76 contain more than one family, and 39 are accommodating lodgers. With the present staff available for this work, it is estimated that another two years will be required to complete the survey.

Eradication of Vermin.

The amount of work carried out under this heading has considerably increased, 294 visits being necessary, as compared with 82 during the previous year. The chief increase

has arisen in houses seriously infested with cockroaches, and appears to be largely due to the difficulty occupiers have experienced during the war in obtaining suitable insecticides.

A summary of the work done is given below:—

Bed bugs:

Number of Council houses disinfested	.....	.....	2
Number of other houses disinfested	.....	.....	12
Number of other houses disinfested by owners	.....		1

Of the 12 privately owned houses, the occupiers were charged with the cost in four cases, and the owners paid for the remaining eight houses.

The above houses have been dealt with by spraying Zaldecide and fumigating with Lawes Block Disinfestators, in the same way as set out in detail on page 29 of the Annual Report for 1944.

Cockroaches:

Number of Council houses disinfested	.....	.....	40
Number of private houses disinfested	.....	.....	7
			—
Total	.....		47
			—

All these houses have been dealt with by the use of Gammexane, the powder being spread by means of a foot pump. Prior to applying the powder, two or three floorboards were taken up near the living room fireplaces, and adjoining skirting boards and other woodwork eased off the walls. In all cases one application, using 2-3 pounds of powder, has been effective.

Crickets:

Number of food premises dealt with by use of Gammexane	1
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Fleas:

Number of houses disinfested by use of Zaldecide	1
Number of persons cleansed	5
Number of filthy and flea infested articles destroyed	4

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

The Chesterfield Municipal Abattoir continues to be used as the regional slaughterhouse for this area, the meat being delivered direct from the abattoir to the butchers' shops on two or three days per week, depending on the availability of supplies. Careful attention is paid to these supplies and to the conditions under which the meat and other foods are stored and prepared for sale. For this purpose a total of 549 inspections have been made during the year. The meat shows evidence of having been carefully inspected at Chesterfield. It has been necessary to deal with unsatisfactory conditions on 6 occasions, as a result of bruising and the mouldy condition of imported meat.

Cottagers still continue to slaughter a large number of pigs, the majority of which have been examined.

Number of animals slaughtered and examined:	Pigs
Private slaughterhouses	202
Farms and private premises	83
Total	285

Unsound food condemned amount to 2,575 lbs.,
made up as follows:—

Beef and beef offal (conditions other than Tuberculosis)	32 lbs.
Pork and pork offal (Tuberculosis)	951 lbs.
Pork and pork offal (conditions other than Tuberculosis)	80 lbs.
Mutton offal (conditions other than Tuberculosis)	14 lbs.
Tinned goods	696 lbs.
Fresh and dried fruit	315 lbs.
Other food	487 lbs.

The tubercular pork and pork offal showed that 6% of the cottagers' pigs examined were affected with tuberculosis compared with 4.83% and 6.23% for the two previous years. In three instances, the carcasses were affected with Generalised Tuberculosis.

Seven informal and one statutory notices have been served requiring the cleansing, repair of floors and walls, and the improvement of sanitary accommodation at premises used for food preparation.

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS.

The production and distribution of milk has continued to take up a good proportion of your Inspector's time, and whilst a few improvements have been secured, there are still a number of cowsheds and dairies which need amendment. With the present shortage of building trade operatives and restrictions on building work, it is impossible to proceed with any scheme for bringing these premises up to the requirements of the Order.

Details of registered premises, etc.:

(a) Wholesale producers	27	Cowsheds in use	125
(b) Producers and retailers	50	Dairies	69
(c) Retail purveyors	10		
	<hr/>		<hr/>
Total	87		194
	<hr/>		<hr/>

During the year, 297 inspections have been made of cowsheds and dairies, and 16 informal notices served. Improvements effected as a result of these notices are set out below:—

Cowsheds:

New sheds erected	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Floors re-laid	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Rear walls rendered	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Limewashed	.....	.....	.....	.....	4

Dairies:

Limewashed	.....	3
Boilers provided	.....	1
Coolers renewed	.....	1
District piped supply of water provided	.....	1
Other improvements:		
Improved sterilising of churns	.....	3
Milk stools cleansed	.....	3
Udders cleansed	.....	2
Improved cooling of milk	.....	3

Milk Sampling.

The scheme of milk sampling continues to be operated, and during the year the following samples were submitted for examination:—

New Milk:

Methylene		
Blue test	106	(99 satisfactory, 7 unsatisfactory)
Coliform Test	119	(101 satisfactory, 18 unsatisfactory)
Bacteriological		
Examination	10	satisfactory
Biological		
Examination	90	(1 positive tuberculosis)

Heat treated Milk:

Bacteriological		
Examination	5	satisfactory
Coliform Test	5	satisfactory
Phosphatase Test	1	unsatisfactory
Biological		
Examination	4	satisfactory

Sterilised Milk:

Bacteriological		
Examination	1	satisfactory
Coliform Test	1	satisfactory
Biological		
Examination	1	satisfactory

The number of samples examined is similar to the previous year, at least one sample being obtained from each producer in the area and each retailer selling milk produced in the area, or obtained from an outside source. As no bacteriological standard is available for ordinary milk, the results are compared with those prescribed for graded milks. On this basis it is pleasing to note (see table below) the high percentage of milks which reached the graded standard. All unsatisfactory reports are followed up, and this work has shown a steady improvement in the results over the past few years.

Year	Number of Samples	Methylene Blue Test		Coliform Test	
		Per cent. satisfactory	Per cent. below standard	Per cent. satisfactory	Per cent. below standard
1945	106	93	7	—	—
	125	—	—	85	15
1944	118	84	16	—	—
	125	—	—	83	17
1943	115	72	28	—	—
	117	—	—	79	21
1942	50	80	20	80	20

Of the 95 samples examined for Tuberculosis, 1 (or 1.05%) was reported positive. This case was referred through the County Medical Officer to the Veterinary Inspector, and resulted in the slaughter of one milk cow affected with Advanced Tuberculosis, including lesions in the udder.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) REGULATIONS, 1936-44.

Number of retailers licences issued	.....	.....	5
Number of supplementary licences issued	.....	.....	3

All the pasteurised milk retailed in this area is processed in the Mansfield and Ripley districts. Details of samples submitted for examination are set out below:--

Bacteriological Examination:

24 samples (20 satisfactory, 4 unsatisfactory).

Phosphatase Test:

24 samples (22 satisfactory, 2 unsatisfactory).

Where unsatisfactory reports have been received, they have been immediately referred to the Dairy and the Sanitary Inspector of the districts affected.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938 (ICE CREAM).

As a result of the permission to again sell ice cream, increased attention has been given to the conditions under which this is produced, and the bacteriological condition of the ice cream sold. Fifteen applications for registration were received, thirteen of which were granted. In the other two instances, the Council refused to register the existing premises, and at the end of the year, completely new premises were in course of erection.

Twenty-two samples of ice cream and three samples of ingredients used in the manufacture of ice cream were submitted for bacteriological examination (see summary below). Whilst no standard (bacteriological or otherwise) is set for ice cream, I am sure it will be readily agreed that at least 50% of the samples examined could be classed as unsatisfactory. Enquiries and investigations made in an endeavour to secure improvements in methods of production, cleansing and sterilising of utensils, etc., have revealed an astonishing variety of ingredients used in the manufacture of ice cream. It is very difficult to find two ice creams made of the same substance.

ICE CREAM SAMPLES:

Retailer or Producer No.	Bacteriological Examination	Coliform Test	Remarks
1.	16,000 per c.c.	Negative	Cold mix
2.	248,000 per c.c.	"	Pre-packed
3. (a)	Uncountable	Present in 1/100 c.c.	Cold mix
(b)	"	"	"
(c)	149,000 per c.c.	"	"
(d)	11,000 per c.c.	Negative	"
4.	276,000 per c.c.	"	Hot mix
5.	172,000 per c.c.	"	Cold mix
6. (a)	Uncountable	"	Hot mix
(b)	288,000 per c.c.	Present in 1/100 c.c.	"
(c)	382,000 per c.c.	Negative	"
(d)	Uncountable	"	"
9. (a)	304,000 per c.c.	Present in 1/100 c.c.	Cold mix
(b)	162,000 per c.c.	Negative	"
11.	83,000 per c.c.	"	Pre-packed
14. (a)	394,000 per c.c.	Present in 1/100 c.c.	Hot mix
(b)	Unaccountable	"	"
(c)	"	"	"
(d)	"	"	"
(e)	"	"	"
15. (a)	160,000 per c.c.	Present in 1/100 c.c.	Hot mix
(b)	216,000 per c.c.	Negative	"

SAMPLES OF ICE CREAM INGREDIENTS:

Ingredients	Bacteriological Examination	Coliform Test
Ice cream powder used in manufacture of Sample No. 3 (c)	24,000 per c.c.	Negative
Ice cream powder used in manufacture of Sample No. 3 (b)	220,000 per c.c.	Negative
Powdered milk used in manufacture of Sample No. 3 (b)	84,000 per c.c.	Negative

WATER SUPPLIES.

The water supply to the district has been satisfactory during the year, both as regards quality and quantity. Three routine samples of the district's water supply have been

taken from house taps in different parts of the district for bacteriological examination. All three samples were reported to be satisfactory. It will be noted from the following schedule that 99.88 of the houses in the district are supplied with water from the district council's main.

	Houses	Percentage
Number of houses without district water supply and using well water, etc.	6	.12
Number of Houses without an internal water supply, but using external stand pipes served by district water supply	170	3.20
(Stand pipes vary from 1 to 1 house to 1 to 6 houses)		
Number of houses with an internal supply of district water	5,148	96.68

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919.

The Council continue to administer delegated powers in respect of this Act.

A part-time rat catcher has been employed under the supervision of your Sanitary Inspector since 1939. Arrangements are made for him to regularly examine and deal with any rat infestation on Council refuse tips and sewage works. This work has proved very effective, and has resulted in the Council's premises being kept free from serious infestation. Where ordinary trapping is unsuitable, the work is carried out by a full time assistant, who has been trained by the Ministry of Food in modern methods.

During the year a total of 914 inspections and visits have been made, 13 notices served and complied with, and 1 case referred to the War Agricultural Committee. In 8 cases, work for the destruction of rats has been carried out by the Council on private premises, and the costs recovered from the occupiers.

Summary of work done:

	Council premises	Private premises	Total
Number of premises visited	143	15	158
Number of rats destroyed by dogs, ferrets, etc.	119	—	119
Number of pre-baits laid	194	177	371
Number of poison baits laid	32	56	88
Number of post baits laid ..	33	54	87
Estimated number of rats poisoned	90	132	222
Number of burrows gassed	28	8	32

Treatment of Sewer Inspection Chambers.

Work on the examination and baiting of sewer inspection chambers was commenced in 1944 and completed in March, 1945. In order to deal with this work satisfactorily, with the staff available, it was necessary to divide the district into nine areas, each area requiring one full week for treatment.

Parish	No. of sewer I.C.'s	Pre-baits laid	Poison baits laid	Estimated No. of rats destroyed
South Normanton	134	544	136	473
Pinxton	81	286	85	210
Blackwell	119	372	—	—
Tibshelf	89	356	89	160
Total ..	423	1,558	310	843

This work could not have been effectively carried out but for the assistance of the County Surveyor, who allowed the use of a Civil Defence Rescue Van, free of charge, and I am very much indebted to him for this assistance. The lack of suitable transport has prevented maintenance treatments being carried out.

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

There are no recognised camping grounds in the area, but the continuance of open cast coal mining in the district and the difficulty in securing housing accommodation has

resulted in a number of temporary dwellings being used. A total of 11 licences have been issued under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936 (Section 269), and all these premises have been satisfactorily maintained.

Factory Act, 1937.

A total of 34 inspections have been made and two notices served and complied with, resulting in the following improvements:—

Overcrowding abated	.....	1
Screening of females' sanitary accommodation	.....	1
Provisional of additional w.c.	.....	1
Provision of lavatory basin	.....	1
Provision of improved heating	.....	1

SCAVENGING.

The Council undertake the collection and disposal of refuse by direct labour in the whole of the Southern Area.

Collection and Disposal.

The work, which is carried out by motor transport, has resulted in the removal of 4,651 loads of refuse, night soil and cesspool contents, and the vehicles have covered some 31,217 miles.

One new Karrier Bantam refuse collection vehicle has been purchased during the year, and the 30 cwt. Morris Commercial lorry disposed of for scrap. At the end of the year, the following vehicles were in use:—

- Two ton Karrier Bantam, supplied January, 1946.
- Two ton Karrier Bantam, supplied October, 1943.
- Four/five ton Austin, supplied July, 1942.
- Two ton Karrier Bantam, supplied September, 1939.

Number of premises served:—

Ashbins	5,559	(cleansed weekly)
Ashplaces	2	(cleansed monthly)
Privies and middens	12	(cleansed monthly)
Closet pails	1,837	(cleansed weekly)
Cesspools	41	(cleansed quarterly)

There has been an improvement during the year in the availability of suitable labour for this class of work, but considerable difficulty has continued to be experienced in immediate repair of defective lorries. As a result of this, 186 days have been lost by lorries, and the Council have been forced to hire vehicles at a cost of £48. The lost time was mainly attributable to delays in the delivery of spare parts. In an endeavour to keep this loss of time down to a minimum, arrangements have been made for all but major motor repairs to be carried out by the Council's own staff, and at the time of compiling this report, the arrangement was working very satisfactorily and smoothly.

A specially constructed portable tank, carried in one of the refuse lorries, is used for the cleansing of closet pails and for the removal of cesspool contents. The 3 inch Johnson's Diaphragm Mud Pump purchased in March, 1945, for the cleansing of cesspools, has been a great improvement. The work is much cleaner, and the rate of cleansing has been increased by 100%.

At a time when many authorities are having serious difficulties and are having to reduce the frequency of their collection service, I am pleased to be able to report that the work of collection and disposal has been maintained at a pre-war level.

All dry refuse is disposed of by tipping (controlled), and night soil is taken by farmers for use as manure on agricultural land. Four tips have been used during the year. No facilities are available for weighing the refuse, but after

taking into account the loads of refuse removed and the cubic capacity of the vehicle bodies, it is estimated that the yield of dry refuse is 21 cwt. per 1,000 population per day; or 1.33 tons per house per annum.

Costs.

The total cost of this service continues to show an increase as compared with previous years:—

	1945/46	1944/45	1938/39
Total cost (collection and disposal of dry refuse, night soil and cesspool contents)	£8,116	£6,991	£4,254
Cost per annum per 1,000 population	£434	£406	£206
Cost per annum per 1,000 houses	£1,525	£1,313	£792

The increased cost is again chiefly accounted for by the increases in the workmen's wages, the rate having increased a further 14% as compared with March, 1945. The full cost of a new vehicle (£606), is also included in the costs for this year.

Below are set out details of the work performed by each vehicle, and the comparative running cost of each vehicle:—

Work done by Lorries:

Lorry	Cleansing	Mileage Salvage	Total	Refuse	Loads removed Night Soil	Cesspool contents	No. of other journeys (chiefly Salvage)
Karrier Bantam (1939) GRA 810	6,293	176	6,469	979	112	—	62
Karrier Bantam (1943) HRB 408	6,422	809	7,231	653	346	150	197
Karrier Bantam (1946) JNU 995	1,146	135	1,281	237	—	—	24
Austin 4/5 ton (1942) HRA 287	9,763	1,573	11,036	989	616	29	191
*Morris Com. 30 cwt. (1937) CVO 123	3,291	1,609	4,900	318	171	31	382
	26,915	4,302	31,217	3,176	1,245	210	856

*Disposed of 1945.

Comparative Costs of Operation of Lorries:

(less Drivers' Wages and Depreciation charges)

Lorry	Repairs Maintenance, Tyres, etc.			Licences and Insurance	Petrol and Oil			Total			Cost per mile	Cost per estimated ton
	£	s.	d.	£	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		
GRA 810 (2 tons)	154	8	6	36	94	5	3	284	13	9	10½d.	2/7
HRB 408 (2 tons)	188	9	1	36	106	13	4	331	2	5	11d.	2/10½
JNU. 995 (2 tons)		6	1	16	17	11	7	33	17	8	6½d.	1/5
HRA 287 (4/5 ton)	80	10	11	41	204	11	8	326	2	7	7d.	1/4
CVO 123 (30 cwt.)	50	12	8	25	74	2	3	149	14	11	7d.	3/10
	474	7	3	154	497	4	1	1,125	11	4	8½d.	2/1½

SALVAGE.

The returns for the recovery and disposal of salvage for the past six years are shown below:—

1945-46:	286 tons	14 cwts.	93 lbs.	£905	7	9.
1944-45:	353 tons	19 cwts.	26 lbs.	£1,161	0	6.
1943-44:	458 tons	16 cwts.	56 lbs.,	£1,392	18	2.
1942-43:	631 tons	7 cwts.	30 lbs.,	£1,937	14	10.
1941-42:	465 tons	4 cwts.	30 lbs.,	£1,283	8	3.
1940-41:	266 tons	10 cwts.	76 lbs.,	£764	3	1½.

The various materials dealt with are summarised below:

	Tons cwts. lbs.			£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	72	14	58	464	17	0.
Baled destructor scrap	42	5	0	66	4	9
Other ferrous metal	16	18	0	38	10	0
Non-ferrous metal	6	99		5	14	10
Textiles	7	9	74	53	10	3
Rubber		6	0	2	2	0
Bones	11	9	84	59	16	5
Cinders	10	10	0		17	6
Bottles and Jars	9	0	94	38	14	6
Cullet	8	1	0	10	1	3
Kitchen waste	107	13	20	164	1	3
Miscellaneous					18	0.

It will be noted that there has been a steady decline in the quantity of salvage recovered during the past three years. Whilst a proportion of this decrease is undoubtedly due to the continued scarcity of materials and the clearing of householders' stocks by repeated salvage drives, there is an increasing apathy on the part of many householders which has become more pronounced since the termination of hostilities.

The largest decrease is in the collection of kitchen waste, which has fallen from 243 tons in 1942-43 to 107 tons during the past year. The collection of this material was first commenced in 1941, use being made of 155 street bins. Notwithstanding every effort made by this department, including chaining bins to fences, etc., it has been found impossible to maintain these bins in a satisfactory condition. A recent survey of these bins showed that 75% of the lids were missing. There is no doubt that street bins are an unhygienic method of collection, and should only be tolerated whilst there is a serious shortage of feeding stuffs. At present, 112 street bins are in use.

All the schools in the district have continued to assist with the collection of waste paper, and during the year have recovered 5 tons 1 cwt. as against 12 tons 19 cwts. during the preceding year.

Having regard to the continued effort made by this department to keep the public interested in this vital work, it is disappointing to note the decreases previously reported. Trailers continue to be used along with all refuse vehicles, which ensures a weekly collection of salvage from all houses, and in addition special weekly collections are made from shops and other business premises.

Thirty letters have been addressed to householders regarding mixing paper with other domestic refuse.

GENERAL.

It is only with extreme difficulty that it has been possible to keep the work of refuse collection and disposal at a satisfactory level. Whilst staff difficulties have not been as great as previous years, there has been no improvement in the speed with which it has been possible to secure the repair of defective vehicles; work which would normally require 2 to 3 days, often takes as much as 2 months.

Much of the routine inspection work has of necessity been neglected, but every possible effort has been directed to the supervision of food supplies, the maintenance of an efficient cleansing service, and the remedy of urgent house and drainage defects.

During the year, 158 complaints (9 not confirmed) were received and investigated. This is the largest number for some years past, and is undoubtedly due to the lack of building repair work carried out during the war years. The complaints included 47 regarding housing defects, 29 drainage defects, 28 dirty and verminous premises, and 20 defective sanitary accommodation.

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